

This week start a 9 part series on the Hebrew word, Hesed.

חֶסֶד Hesed is used 246 times in the Old Testament and is usually translated “Steadfast Loving-Kindness”

חֶסֶד Hesed is used primarily to describe God's faithful-covenant love toward those who place their trust in Him

Today we find ourselves in Psalm 13, looking at God's faithful loving-kindness in salvation.

Psalm 13 was most likely written by David while he was being pursued and persecuted by king Saul, a king of Israel who did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

Whatever the occasion for its writing, I'm sure many of us can resonate with, and related to the way David is expressing himself in this Psalm.

The thing I would ask you all to recognize and focus on is that even though David feels discouraged and even abandoned, he doesn't stay there.

The steadfast loving-kindness of the Lord encourages him, even though his earthly situation has not changed.

1. Our feelings often do not reflect our reality.

Psalm 13:1 (ESV)

**How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?**

Psalm 13:2 (ESV)

**How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

I thought of Job as I was studying this Psalm (*Read Job 1:13-19 for more information*).

Job was a man who lost almost everything this world has to offer, his response to his tragic loss is nothing short of inspiring!

Job 1:20-22 (ESV)

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

But even though Job responded well, better than I would have, I'm sure a part of Job felt the way David did in this Psalm as the devil came against him and his family.

The thing that is important to note is that both Job and David knew something deep within their hearts that allowed them the courage and the strength to trust in the Lord, in spite of their circumstances, inspire of their feelings.

They knew that God has and would show His Hesed, His faithful loving-kindnes,s to those who place their trust in Him.

Why? Because God is faithful and He keeps His promises. Maybe not according to our time-table, but God will save and deliver all who place their trust in Him!

May we, in the power of the Holy, confess...

Job 19:25-27 (ESV)

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

May we realize that that even though we may feel this way now, for those who trust in the completed work of Christ, nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Study Questions:

- A. Think of a time when you felt like the Psalmist in verses 1 & 2, how did you respond? Like Job and David?
 - B. Discuss why it is important to note, and remind ourselves of God's faithfulness in Scripture and in our lives? How does that help us in our response to difficulties (*feelings vs convictions*)?
-

2. God is our refuge, whom we can pour our heart out to.

Psalm 13:3 (ESV)

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

Psalm 13:4 (ESV)

lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Study question:

- A. Read Philippians 4:4-7 and discuss how the two passages are related, what similarities they possess.**

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- B. Why is prayer so important, and how does 1 Peter 5:6-7 further remind us that God is our refuge, our safe place?**
-

3. God's salvation is our sure hope.

Psalm 13:5 (ESV)

**But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**

Psalm 13:6 (ESV)

**I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

Though the Lord is our safe refuge from the world where we can pour our hearts out to, we must always remind ourselves that it is NEVER the will of the Lord for us to stay in a place of despair.

To do so would be to take too lightly the great Love of God revealed in the salvation Christ has provided. It would be the mistake of Esau, to not place a high enough value on the covenant love of God.

There are several sections of Scripture that I call my "go to" verses when I feel this way., Romans 8:31-39 is one of them, Isaiah 12 is another.

There is no way around the pain and suffering that this life brings, the only way is to go through it. The wonderful reality for the believer is that we do not go through it alone, and that one day, it will all be over.

But while we are still living in a sinful and fallen world, Jesus promises that He will never leave us nor will He forsake us, He will always be there with us through the storms of Life.

But for me, the greatest comfort is the promise of eternal life! This is the greatest source of peace that the believer has! It is the promise of total healing that flows from the cross of Christ. One day, believers in Christ Jesus will live forever in a place with no more sin, sickness and traumatic events, one day we will live in a place where death is no more! Hallelujah!

For the believer, by Christ's stripes we are/will be healed! Maybe not fully on this side of eternity, but as Job was assured of, believers will be in the presence of the Triune God fully healed and resorted as we see Jesus face to face.

God's promises are secure, they are worth trusting in! They are worth waiting for!

Study Questions:

A. Discuss why the "Take aways" are important in the life of a believer and how can you apply them to your life and your small group?

What We Take Away:

- 1. Do NOT trust in your feelings! Place your trust entirely in the victory of Christ and the secure promise of eternal life in His presence for all eternity!**
- 2. Pouring your heart out to God in prayer is the best way to deal with your frustrations (Philippians 4:4-9).**
- 3. Allow the faithful loving-kindness of God, revealed in the free gift of Christ's salvation, to change your attitude and turn your sorrow into praising!**